



I ambitiously thought that I could cover all of 1 Corinthians 11 on Sunday, and that was totally wrong! Perhaps in your study this week, you can pick up on the parts we didn't hit on Sunday.

Head & Body • 1 Cor. 11 (p. 539)

The words "covered" and "uncovered" don't actually appear in the original Greek, and we don't have any evidence of the tradition Paul talks about, but our best guess is that Paul was advocating for women to wear something on their heads while saying a prayer or speaking a prophetic word in worship gatherings but that men should not. Rather than trying to decipher the details of that uncertain ancient practice, we will focus on Paul's reasons for the difference between men and women.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-3. Scholars debate the meaning of the word "head" in this passage. To Greeks, it could mean "source of life." To Hebrews, it could mean "representative of," or "hold authority over." What do you think Paul means by it?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:4-16. Many people focus on the head-covering idea and the "submission" concept in Paul's writing, but what's missed is that Paul thinks it's absolutely normal for women to "prophesy" in the worship gatherings! He indicates that men and women can do the same things in worship but they should just look different. What do you think of that?

Paul is referring to a cultural idea (long hair for men was shameful) that was rare in the ancient world. Jewish people didn't hold to that idea, and Paul would have known that. What do you think of the fact that Paul is promoting a Roman gender stereotype to people living in a highly Roman culture?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22. What is the problem Paul identifies here?

Read 23-26. Why do Christians do communion?

Read 27-34. The early Christians mixed communion with a full meal (potluck). Therefore, for Paul, the meal and communion carried the same significance. What recommendation does he give them in vv. 33-34?

Verse 29 has scared Christians for centuries (it scared me as a kid!). But more than that, it also has caused major church divisions (Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant). At issue is the question, "What does it mean to *examine oneself* and to *discern the body*?" Traditionally, examining yourself meant to consider your sinfulness and repent internally or maybe confess to a priest. Traditionally, discerning the body meant to think of the bread and the cup as mystically *being* or *containing* the body and blood of Jesus; however, let's trust the context. Read **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**. What does it mean to "discern the body"?

Chapter 11 is not about two separate issues. It's about one issue: How the Body of Christ lives as the Body of Christ and represents the Body of Christ. What do you learn from this chapter about Christians living as the Body of Christ?



I ambitiously thought that I could cover all of 1 Corinthians 11 on Sunday, and that was totally wrong! Perhaps in your study this week, you can pick up on the parts we didn't hit on Sunday.

Head & Body • 1 Cor. 11 (p. 539)

The words "covered" and "uncovered" don't actually appear in the original Greek, and we don't have any evidence of the tradition Paul talks about, but our best guess is that Paul was advocating for women to wear something on their heads while saying a prayer or speaking a prophetic word in worship gatherings but that men should not. Rather than trying to decipher the details of that uncertain ancient practice, we will focus on Paul's reasons for the difference between men and women.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-3. Scholars debate the meaning of the word "head" in this passage. To Greeks, it could mean "source of life." To Hebrews, it could mean "representative of," or "hold authority over." What do you think Paul means by it?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:4-16. Many people focus on the head-covering idea and the "submission" concept in Paul's writing, but what's missed is that Paul thinks it's absolutely normal for women to "prophesy" in the worship gatherings! He indicates that men and women can do the same things in worship but they should just look different. What do you think of that?

Paul is referring to a cultural idea (long hair for men was shameful) that was rare in the ancient world. Jewish people didn't hold to that idea, and Paul would have known that. What do you think of the fact that Paul is promoting a Roman gender stereotype to people living in a highly Roman culture?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22. What is the problem Paul identifies here?

Read 23-26. Why do Christians do communion?

Read 27-34. The early Christians mixed communion with a full meal (potluck). Therefore, for Paul, the meal and communion carried the same significance. What recommendation does he give them in vv. 33-34?

Verse 29 has scared Christians for centuries (it scared me as a kid!). But more than that, it also has caused major church divisions (Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant). At issue is the question, "What does it mean to *examine oneself* and to *discern the body*?" Traditionally, examining yourself meant to consider your sinfulness and repent internally or maybe confess to a priest. Traditionally, discerning the body meant to think of the bread and the cup as mystically *being* or *containing* the body and blood of Jesus; however, let's trust the context. Read **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**. What does it mean to "discern the body"?

Chapter 11 is not about two separate issues. It's about one issue: How the Body of Christ lives as the Body of Christ and represents the Body of Christ. What do you learn from this chapter about Christians living as the Body of Christ?